

that technological innovations could be suppressed: they will be implemented sooner or later, for good or for ill” (2001, p. 149). A critically realistic view of inevitable progress leads Lem to formulate, in the volume *The Secret of Chinese Room*, the concept of the technological trap, which aptly sums up all his views on the profound changes taking place in the world of science: “I propose the following definition of a technological trap: it is the social and living result of the widespread implementation of such technogenic operations, which in the initial phase was invisible, socially unpredictable and in the growth phase already irreversible, turning the presumed benefits of its spread into one or a multiform catastrophe, more and more clearly recognisable and more and more difficult to stop by those powerful decision-makers, to whom it owes its proliferative proportions and its overwhelming harmfulness” (Lem, 1996, p. 115 [translation – author]).

The degree of technological acceleration as well as the civilization leap connected with this trend strengthen the falsely created feeling of man’s enormous domination over the world of machines. Lem, however, seems to warn against this illusory conviction of controllability and encourages us to remember about maintaining sovereignty in the face of irreversible technicization of our own environment and to set boundaries between the automaton and ourselves. After all, what is at stake here is a battle for the human condition and existence, as well as the preservation of individuality in a cybernetically dominated world.

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